Vol. VIII. Numb. 29

THE OBSERVATOR.

A farther Account of the French *King's Treachery in former Negociations; and of his being bred up in ſuch Principles, and having always acted accordingly. The Elector of* Bavaria *was to have ſeiz'd the Empire as his Deputy. The* French *King's Son and Grandſons bred up in the ſame Principles with himſelf; which is an Argument, that the Power of the Eſtates of* France *ſhould be reſtor'd by Force, if it can't be procur'd by Treaty.*

From Saturday, May 7. to Wednesday, May 11. 1709.

Country-m. SInce the News of an approaching Treaty for a general Peace ſtill holds, Maſter, I want to have ſome farther Diſcourſe with you about it; and particularly, that you would go on with the Account you began of the *French* King's Treachery in former Negociations.

Obſ. I am ſorry, *Roger*, the Publick ſeems to be ſo forgetful as to make any further Account of that Matter neceſſary. I heartily wiſh, that whoever ſhall have the Honour to be concern'd as Plenipotentiaries in the approaching Treaty, would be at the Pains carefully to read over and conſider a Book writ by the Baron *d' Iſola*, a *Spaniſh* Miniſter, which was tranſlated and printed here under the Title of the *Buckler of State and Juſtice againſt the Deſign manifeſtly diſcover'd, of aiming at the univerſal Monarchy, under the vain Pretext of the Queen of* France's *Pretenſions.* This Book was publiſh'd here in 1667, by order of the Earl of *Arlington*, then Secretary of State, in order to give the Nation a true *Idea* of *Lewis* the XIVth's Treachery, or at leaſt to make the World believe, that our Court was not then in the *French* Intereſt; for Diſſimulation and Fraud is the Principle of all *Machiavillian* Politicians, who, like Water-men, row one Way, and look another, and flatter thoſe moſt, whom they deſign to betray.

Country-m. Pray God deliver us from all ſuch, Maſter. Pray give me ſome Account of what that Book ſays of the *French* King's Treachery; for, according to the *Idea* you gave me of it, I take it to be a Sort of a joint Manifeſto by the Houſe of *Auſtria*, and the then Court of *England*; for whatever the latter deſign'd by it, if the Facts be true, it fixes the Charge of Treachery as much upon the *French* King, as if our Court had been ſincere in it.

Obſ. You are perfectly right, honeſt *Roger*. You may remember I told you before, that Cardinal *Mazarine*, and others, who were about the *French* King in his Youth, inſtill'd thoſe Principles of Treachery into him, by which all *Europe* has ſmarted ſince; and this Book tells us, That the Biſhop of *Rhodes*, who was his firſt Governor or Præceptor, publiſh'd a Book, in which he propos'd to his Pupil, *Lewis* the XIVth, the Conduct and Deſigns of his Grand-father, *Henry* the IVth, as a Model which it was fit he ſhould follow, yet you are not to underſtand by this, that he propos'd his Pupil ſhould follow what was truly great and glorious in that Prince, but only his ambitious and vaſt Deſigns to graſp the Crown of *Spain*, that he might obtain the univerſal Monarchy; and in order to this, to cheat all his Neighbours, and lull them aſleep by Treaties and Negociations: for notwithſtanding the great Character which *Henry* the IVth has left behind him, and which he juſtly deſerv'd in many Caſes, yet *Vavor*, in the Beginning of his Hiſtory of *Lewis* the XIIIth, ſays, That on ſome Occaſions *Henry* the IVth ſhew'd as little Sincerity and Uprightneſs, as *Philip* of *Spain*: and that Princes in general ſeldom concern themſelves much about ſo fair a Vertue. Therefore *Henry* waited only for a ſpecious Pretence to make War on *Spain*; and in order to this, renew'd his ancient Alliances Abroad, and carry'd on Negociations with divers Princes, to bring them over to his Intereſt. *Vavor* adds, that the Project uſually aſcrib'd to *Henry* the IVth on this Occaſion, *viz.* to bring *Europe* only to a Ballance, is ſtrangely chimerical, and that 'tis much more probable he deſign'd to improve ſo favourable an Opportunity to revenge himſelf on *Spain*.

So that theſe were the Meaſures which the Biſhop of *Rhodes* propos'd *Lewis* the XIVth ſhould follow; and we muſt all own, that he has out-done the Copy, and has firſt and laſt been uniform in his Actions; for as the *Buckler of State and Juſtice* informs us, he began in thoſe early Days with an exceſſive Profuſeneſs in foreign Negociations, in making of Leagues, and in corrupting Miniſters to keep thoſe employ'd, who could give him any Jealouſy. He made large Offers to the *Swedes*, to embroil the Empire, and apply'd himſelf to force the *Polanders*, by Corruption and Violence, to chuſe a Succeſſor contrary to their fundamental Laws; the ſelf ſame Thing which we have ſeen him act over again but very lately, *Roger*.

Country-m. Aye, Maſter, I remember very well, that he corrupted our Miniſtry and Princes too, and furniſh'd 'em with Money to bribe our Parliaments; which I pray God he may never be able to effect again. But pray go on.

Obſ. That ſame Book informs us, *Roger*, that he ſet mercenary Scribblers at Work, to write in Favour of his ambitious Deſigns. Accordingly one of 'em wrote a Piece, entitl'd, *The juſt Pretenſions of the King of* France *to the Empire*; wherein it was aſſerted, that the greateſt Part of *Germany* was the Patrimony and ancient Inheritance of *French* Princes, and that *Charlemain* poſſeſs'd *Germany* as King of *France*, and not as Emperor; and as he has made good his Pretenſions to *Spain*, under the Notion of ſending his Grandſon, the Duke of *Anjou*, to inherit it by Vertue of *Charles* the IId's Will, we know very well how near he was making good his Pretenſions to the Empire, by the Treachery of the late Electors of *Bavaria* and *Cologn*, whom he engag'd in an unnatural War against their own Country, and in Rebellion againſt the Houſe of *Auſtria*, to whom that of *Bavaria* was oblig'd for the Electoral Dignities of *Bavaria* and *Cologn*, and for the *Upper Palatinate*, which made that Family one of the moſt potent of the Empire; and *la Forreſt de Bourgon*, who publiſh'd a Book of Geography by the *French* King's Authority in 1705, makes no Scruple to own, that the Elector of *Bavaria* puſh'd on his Conqueſts like another *Alexander*, to pave his Way to the Empire; which his Anceſtors had held, and of which even his Enemies thought him worthy. The plain *Engliſh* of which is, *Roger*, that had he ſucceeded, that Elector was to have been the *French* King's Deputy in the Empire, as the Duke of *Anjou* is in *Spain*: but the Bleſſing of Heaven on the Confederate Arms at the Battel of *Hackſtedt*, ſpoil'd that Deſign.

Obſ. Then, Maſter, I hope there will be Care taken at the next Treaty to exclude thoſe two Electors from ever repoſſeſſing thoſe Dignities; for I think

think there's no Reaſon the Empire ſhould receive thoſe Vipers again into her Boſom, to gnaw out her Entrails upon any new Opportunity; and I conceive it to be juſt, that the Allies ſhould join in a new Confederacy to keep out ſuch a Rival to the Emperor's Crown and Dignity, as they ought to keep out all Rivals with the Houſe of *Hannover* in our Succeſſion.

Obſ. I am of your Mind, *Roger*; and in order to ſecure *Europe* againſt the ambitious Deſigns of *France* in Time to come, I have inſiſted upon it, that the States of *France* ſhould be reſtor'd to their ancient Power by Force, if it cannot be effected by Treaty; and to the Reaſons I have already adduc'd, ſhall add what follows, 1. That it ſeems neceſſary, becauſe the *French* King has bred up his Son and Grandſons in his own Principles of arbitrary Power, and has allow'd it as a fundamental Maxim of the Policy of *France*, as the *Buckler of State and Juſtice* informs us, *That the Dominions and Conqueſts of ſovereign Princes, can never be alienated*; *and as he himſelf founded his chimerical Pretenſions to the* German *Empire on this ridiculous Pretext, contrary to what is allow'd among Princes and Nations to be Preſcription*; *his Succeſſors will purſue the ſame Claim to all that they ſhall now be oblig'd to reſtore to the Allies, if ever they find themſelves in a Condition to do it*; for he has certainly inſtill'd his own Principles into them, that no Renunciations or Treaties can bind them in any Thing that's prejudicial to their Right, or to the Crown and Dignity they are poſſeſs'd of; and we ſee, that the Duke of *Anjou* has already put it in Practice with the Conſent of the Dauphin, his Father, by taking Poſſeſſion of the *Spaniſh* Monarchy, contrary to as ſolemn Treaties, Oaths, and Renunciations, as ever were made in *Europe*. 2. Becauſe we cannot otherwiſe be ſafe our ſelves from the Attempts of himſelf or his Succeſſors to impoſe the *St. Germains* Family upon us, or ſome of the Dutcheſs of *Orleans*'s Line; or if the Pretender ſhould drop off, (and the *French* Court is very well vers'd in the Art of bringing ſuch Things about) they may marry his ſuppos'd Siſter to the Duke of *Berry*; and then they have as fair a Plea to pretend a Conqueſt of us in her Right, as they can deſire.

Country-m. But how do you think the reſtoring of the States of *France* to their Power, will prevent this, Maſter?

Obſ. 'Tis plain, *Roger*, that if the *French* King were depriv'd of the Power which he and his Predeceſſors did unjuſtly uſurp to levy Money without their Conſent, he could not make War upon his Neighbours to any Purpoſe, without their previous Concurrence; and the Way to ſecure the Eſtates in this Power, were they once repoſſeſs'd of it, is for them to reſume their ancient Priviledge of concurring with him in appointing who ſhould keep and diſburſe the publick Money, and command the Armies, Fleets, and Garriſons. Were they once repoſſeſs'd of their Power of meeting and acting with Freedom, *Roger*, they would certainly take Care how they ſuffer'd any of their Monarchs to ſpend the Blood and Treaſure of the Nation in unjuſt Conqueſts; by which they have found, to their Coſt, they reap no other Benefit, but to have their own Chains made heavier every Day. Beſides, *Roger*, they have found now, by their own Experience, what all other People, who aſpir'd to univerſal Monarchy, did ever find to be true, *viz.* that all ſuch Projects iſſue in the exhauſting of the Nations which undertake it, and making them a Prey to others at laſt. Thus the four great Monarchies, which aim'd at ſubjecting the whole World, came to nothing, and the Inhabitants of thoſe Countries came to be Slaves themſelves. Thus the *Spaniſh* Monarchy is reduc'd to a Skeleton, and the *French* Monarchy is in a fair Way of being ſo too, if all the Allies be juſt to themſelves.

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